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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY
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TM
LUBBERS+ NICLEOD
NIAGARA NIGHTMARE!

One night in 1971, on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly, his *life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken*. His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again. But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!™

NIAGARA NIGHTMARE!
NEITHER THE HIGHEST NOR THE GREATEST OF THE WORLD'S WATERFALLS, NIAGARA'S HORSESHOE FALLS HAVE NEVERTHELESS ATTRACTED STUNTMEN FROM AROUND THE GLOBE!
THEY HAVE GWUM IT, WALKED A HIGHWIRE ABOVE IT AND GONE OVER IT IN BARRELS! SOME HAVE SUCCEEDED...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, BLAZE! IT'S A SUICIDE STUNT... BUT I CAN DO IT!
I'LL BE THE FIRST TO WATER-SKI OVER THE NIAGARA FALLS!
OBSERVATION POINT
...AND SOME HAVE DIED!
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE HUMAN FLY!
C960

BILL MANTLO WRITER | BOB LUBBERS ARTIST | R. VILLAMONTE INKER | NOVAK, letters D. MARTIN, colors | BOB HALL EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER HEAD HONCHO

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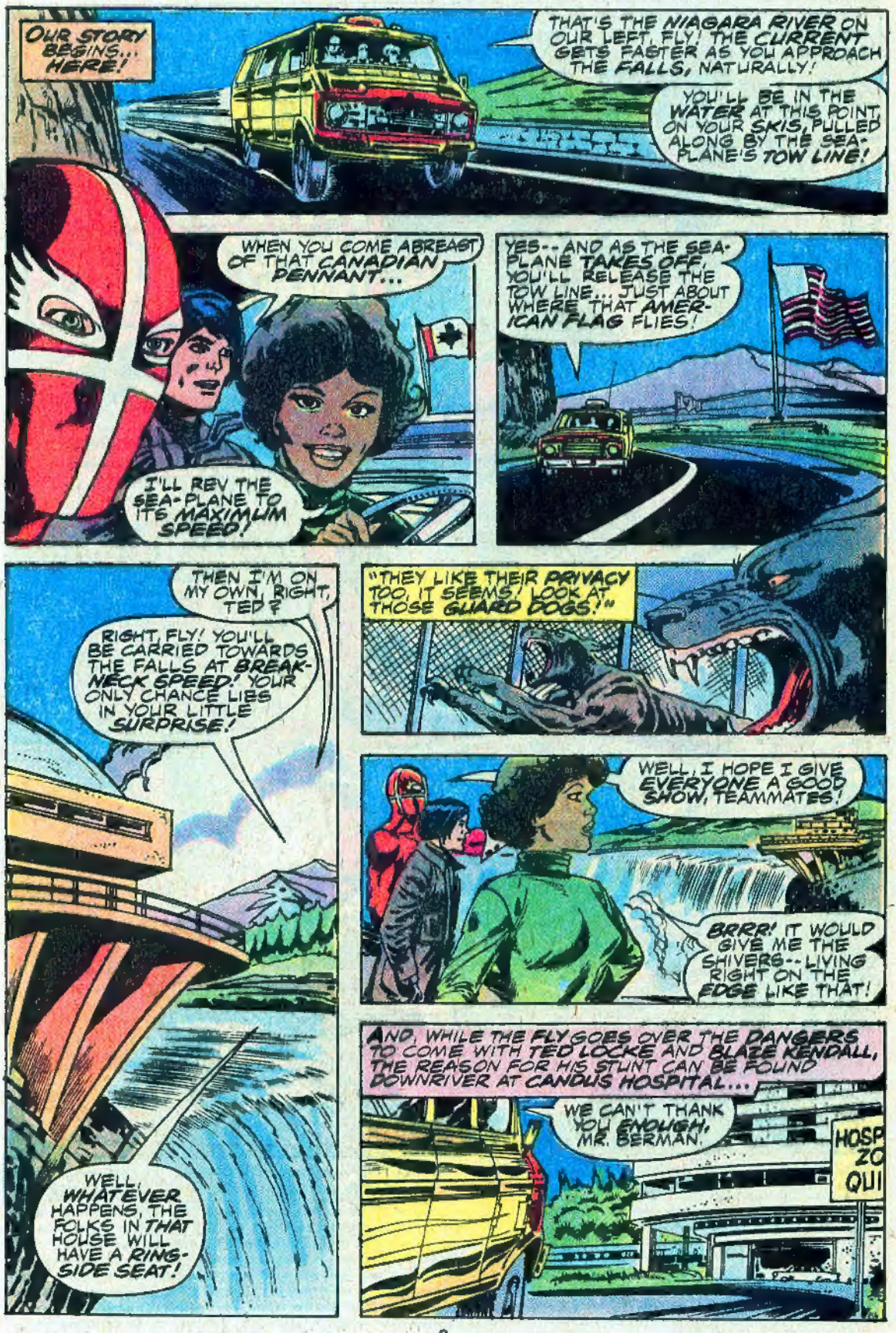
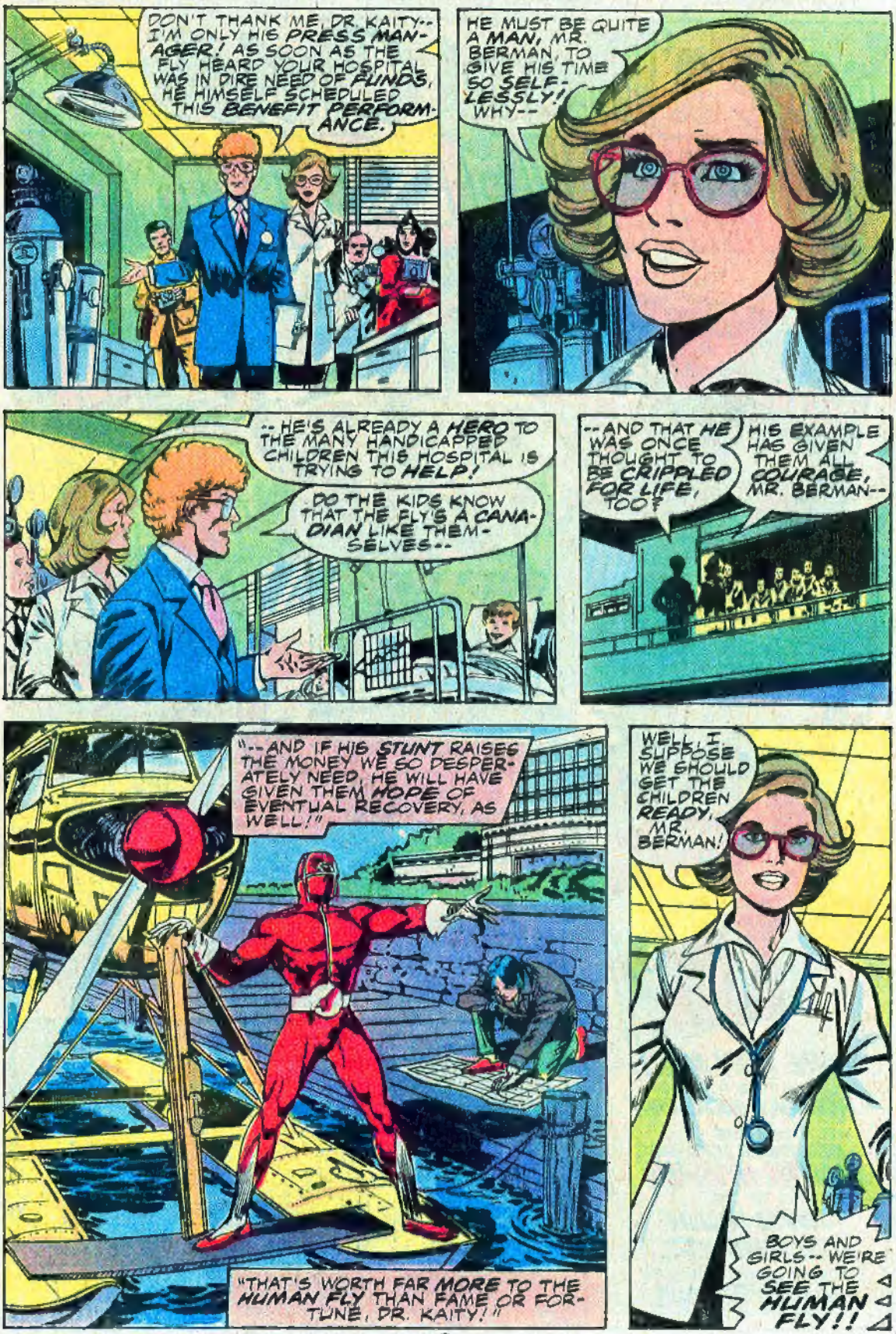
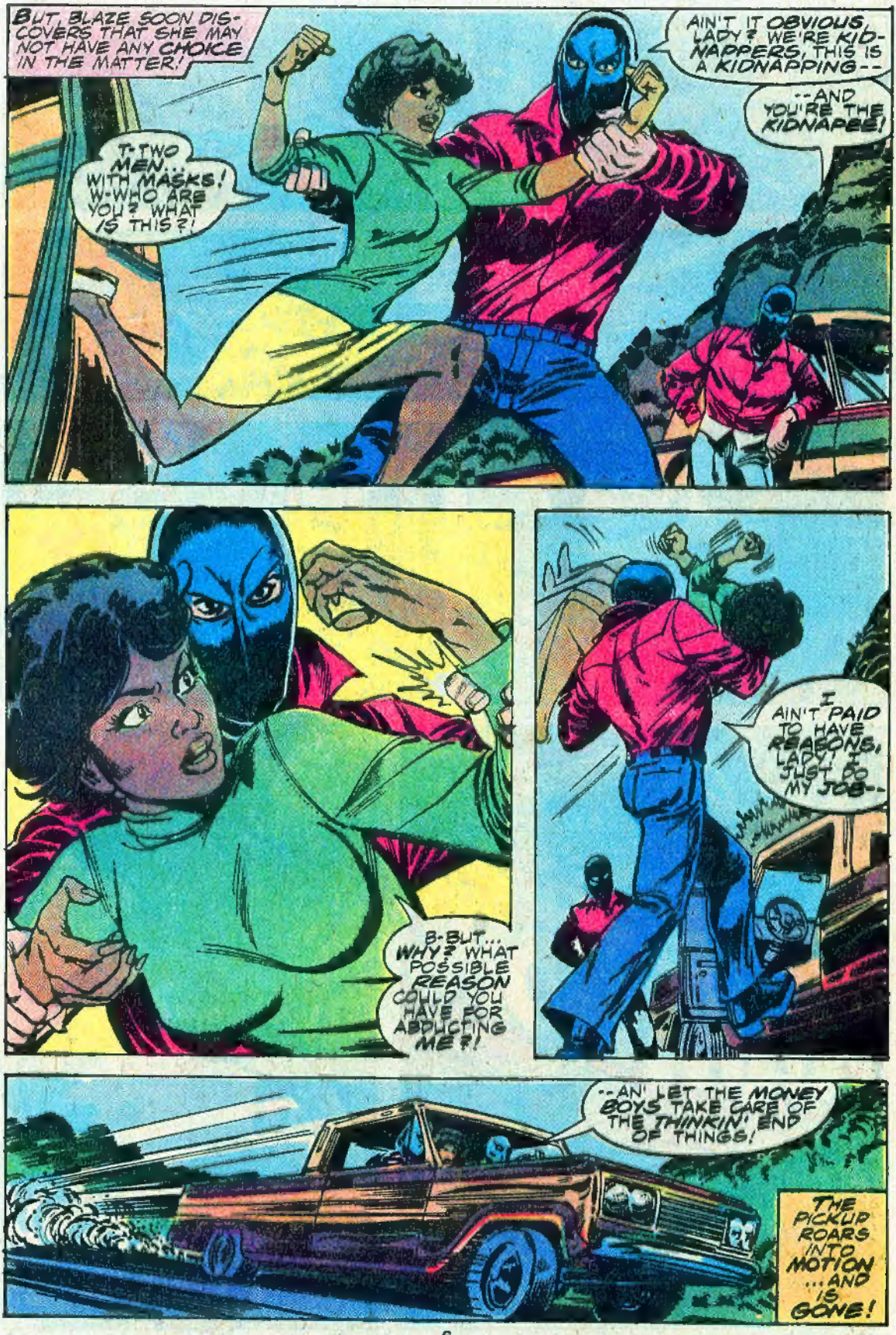
A MrBC Scan!


OUR STORY BEGINS... HERE!
THAT'S THE NIAGARA RIVER ON OUR LEFT, FLY! THE CURRENT GETS FASTER AS YOU APPROACH THE FALLS, NATURALLY!
YOU'LL BE IN THE WATER AT THIS POINT, ON YOUR SKIS, PULLED ALONG BY THE SEA-PLANE'S TOW LINE!
WHEN YOU COME ABREAST OF THAT CANADIAN PENNANT...
I'LL REV THE SEA-PLANE TO ITS MAXIMUM SPEED!
YES--AND AS THE SEA-PLANE TAKES OFF, YOU'LL RELEASE THE TOW LINE... JUST ABOUT WHERE THAT AMERICAN FLAG FLIES!
THEN I'M ON MY OWN, RIGHT, TED?
RIGHT, FLY! YOU'LL BE CARRIED TOWARDS THE FALLS AT BREAK-NECK SPEED! YOUR ONLY CHANCE LIES IN YOUR LITTLE SURPRISE!
WELL, WHATEVER HAPPENS, THE FOLKS IN THAT HOUSE WILL HAVE A RINGSIDE SEAT!
"THEY LIKE THEIR PRIVACY TOO, IT SEEMS! LOOK AT THOSE GUARD DOGS!"
WELL, I HOPE I GIVE EVERYONE A GOOD SHOW, TEAMMATES!
BRRR! IT WOULD GIVE ME THE SHIVERS--LIVING RIGHT ON THE EDGE LIKE THAT!
AND, WHILE THE FLY GOES OVER THE DANGERS TO COME WITH TED LOCKE AND BLAZE KENDALL, THE REASON FOR HIS STUNT CAN BE FOUND DOWNRIVER AT CANDUS HOSPITAL...
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, MR. BERMAN!
HOSP
ZO
QUI


DON'T THANK ME, DR. KAITY-- I'M ONLY HIS PRESS MANAGER! AS SOON AS THE FLY HEARD YOUR HOSPITAL WAS IN DIRE NEED OF FUNDS, HE HIMSELF SCHEDULED THIS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE.
HE MUST BE QUITE A MAN, MR. BERMAN, TO GIVE HIS TIME SO SELFLESSLY! WHY--
--HE'S ALREADY A HERO TO THE MANY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN THIS HOSPITAL IS TRYING TO HELP!
DO THE KIDS KNOW THAT THE FLY'S A CANADIAN LIKE THEMSELVES--
--AND THAT HE WAS ONCE THOUGHT TO BE CRIPPLED FOR LIFE, TOO?
HIS EXAMPLE HAS GIVEN THEM ALL COURAGE, MR. BERMAN--
"--AND IF HIS STUNT RAISES THE MONEY WE SO DESPERATELY NEED, HE WILL HAVE GIVEN THEM HOPE OF EVENTUAL RECOVERY, AS WELL!"
"THAT'S WORTH FAR MORE TO THE HUMAN FLY THAN FAME OR FORTUNE, DR. KAITY!"
WELL, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD GET THE CHILDREN READY, MR. BERMAN!
BOYS AND GIRLS-- WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE HUMAN FLY!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

AND AS THE FATEFUL MOMENT DRAWS NEARER...
OK-- NUMBER ONE -- THESE TOYS, DONATED BY CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN FOR THE KIDS OF CANDUS HOSPITAL, HAVE TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE STUNT SITE, AND THEN I'LL...
...EH? THAT PICKUP BEHIND ME SEEMS TO BE GOING AWFULLY FAST!
IS HE TRYING TO PASS ME, OR--?
NO! HE'S CUTTING ME OFF!
SKREEE
KAWHROM!
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MANIAC WANTS--
--BUT I ALSO DON'T THINK I SHOULD STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT!


BUT BLAZE SOON DISCOVERS THAT SHE MAY NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER!
T-TWO MEN.. WITH MASKS! W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS?!
AIN'T IT OBVIOUS, LADY? WE'RE KIDNAPPERS, THIS IS A KIDNAPPING--
--AND YOU'RE THE KIDNAPEE!
B-BUT... WHY? WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD YOU HAVE FOR ABDUCTING ME?!
I AIN'T PAID TO HAVE REASONS, LADY! I JUST DO MY JOB--
--AN' LET THE MONEY BOYS TAKE CARE OF THE THINKIN' END OF THINGS!
THE PICKUP ROARS INTO MOTION ...AND IS GONE!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT CANDUS HOSPITAL...
ME NEXT, FLY!
NO, ME!
DON'T WORRY, KIDS--THERE'S PLENTY FOR ALL!
I WISH I KNEW WHAT'S KEEPING BLAZE WITH THE SECOND BATCH OF DONATIONS...!
UH... MISTER FLY? EXCUSE ME, BUT THERE'S AN URGENT PHONE CALL FOR YOU!
THANK YOU, NURSE!
BLAZE?!?
SECONDS LATER, A HARSH VOICE CONFIRMS THE FLY'S AWAKENING FEARS!
LISTEN CAREFULLY, FLY! CALL OFF YOUR STUNT, OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR PILOT AGAIN!
HOLD STILL, YOU LITTLE HELLION!
BRING HER HERE, BOYS! THE FLY WON'T BELIEVE ME--
--UNTIL HE HEARS HER VOICE FOR HIMSELF! TALK, LADY!
I-IT'S TRUE, FLY! THEY'VE KIDNAPPED ME... THREATENED TO KILL ME IF YOU PERFORM TODAY!

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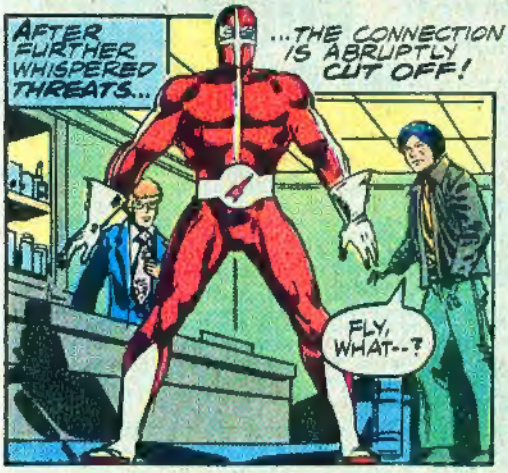
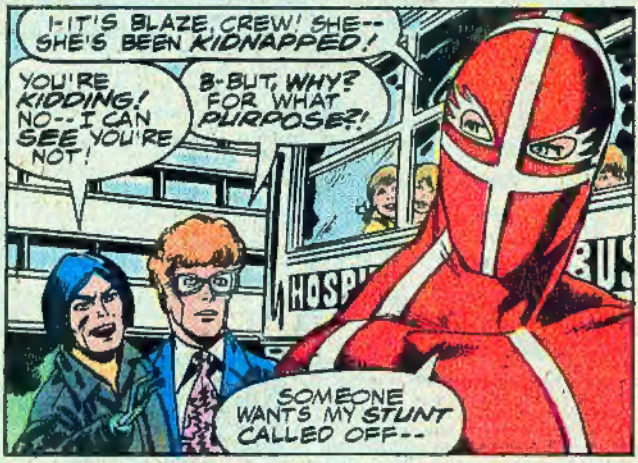
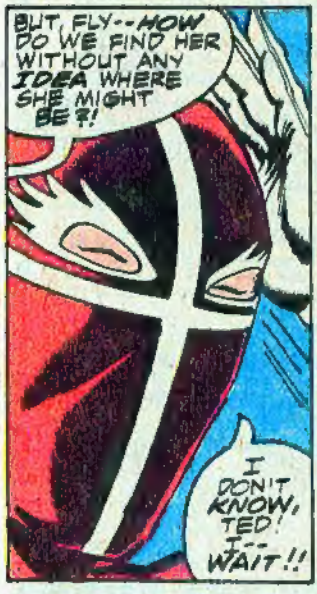
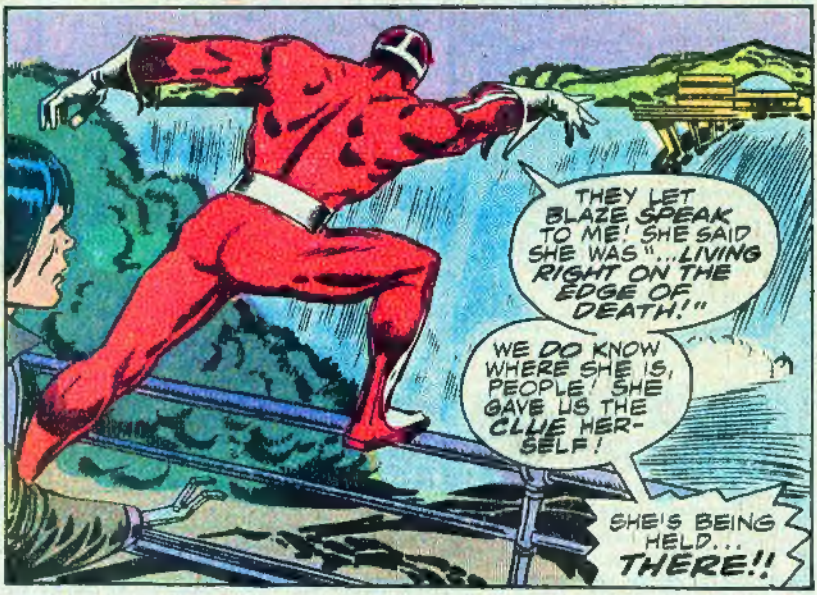
M-MY ONLY CHANCE IS IF YOU DO AS THEY SAY! FLY, I-- I'M LIVING RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF DEATH!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS! HAUL HER BACK AND KEEP AN EYE ON HER!

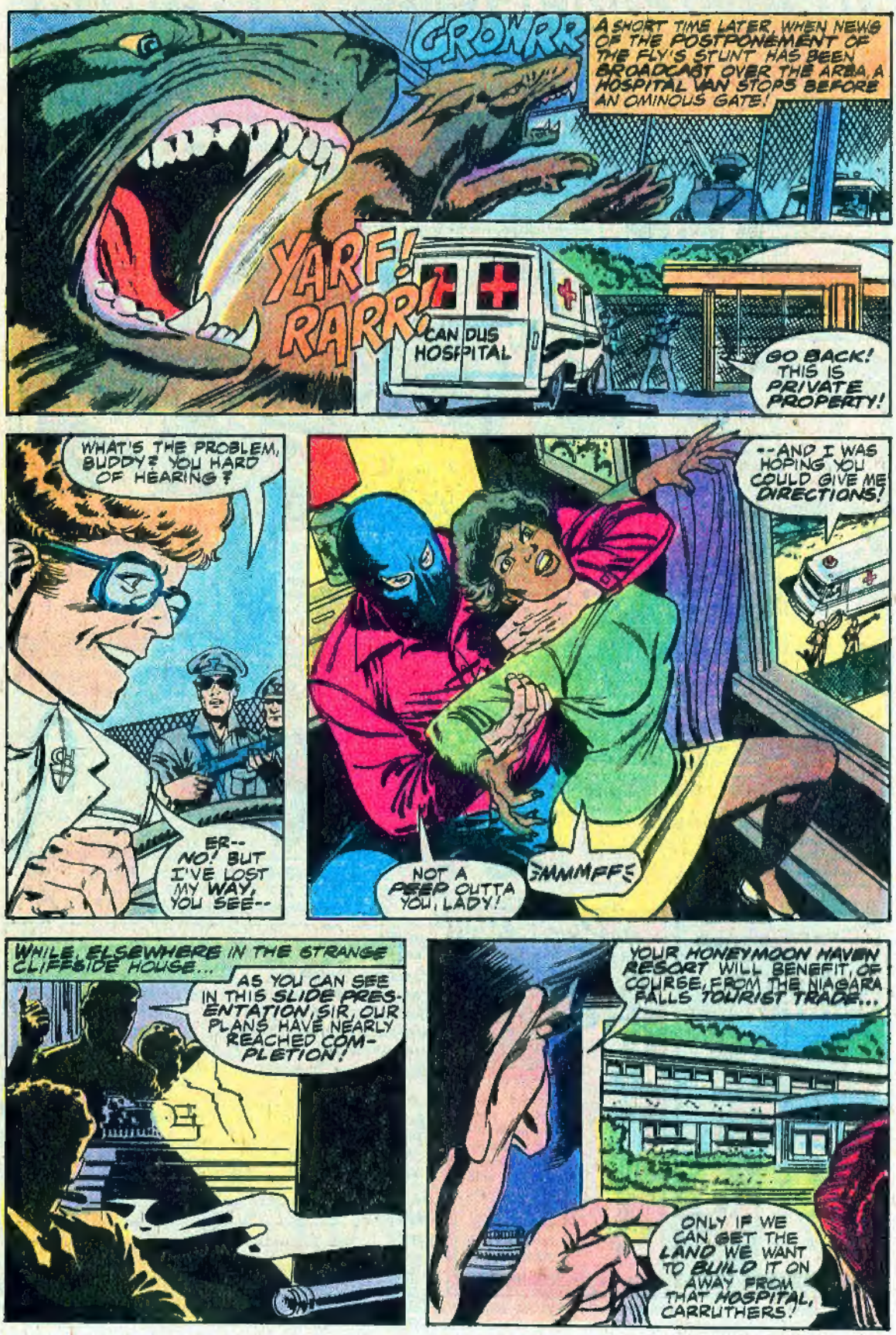

AFTER FURTHER WHISPERED THREATS...
...THE CONNECTION IS ABRUPTLY CUT OFF!
FLY, WHAT--?


I-IT'S BLAZE, CREW! SHE-- SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
YOU'RE KIDDING! NO--I CAN SEE YOU'RE NOT!
B-BUT, WHY? FOR WHAT PURPOSE?!
SOMEONE WANTS MY STUNT CALLED OFF--

--AND THEY'RE THREATENING BLAZE'S LIFE TO MAKE SURE I DON'T PERFORM!
BUT IF CANDUS HOSPITAL DOESN'T GET THE FUNDS IT NEEDS, IT WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET ITS MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, AND THE OWNER WILL FORECLOSE!
WE'VE EITHER GOT TO FIND BLAZE OR CALL OFF THE STUNT!


BUT, FLY--HOW DO WE FIND HER WITHOUT ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE?!
I DON'T KNOW, TED! I-- WAIT!!


THEY LET BLAZE SPEAK TO ME! SHE SAID SHE WAS "...LIVING RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF DEATH!"
WE DO KNOW WHERE SHE IS, PEOPLE! SHE GAVE US THE CLUE HERSELF!
SHE'S BEING HELD... THERE!!


GROWRR
A SHORT TIME LATER, WHEN NEWS OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FLY'S STUNT HAS BEEN BROADCAST OVER THE AREA, A HOSPITAL VAN STOPS BEFORE AN OMINOUS GATE!
YARF! RARR!
CAN DUS HOSPITAL
GO BACK! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, BUDDY? YOU HARD OF HEARING?
ER-- NO! BUT I'VE LOST MY WAY, YOU SEE--
--AND I WAS HOPING YOU COULD GIVE ME DIRECTIONS!
NOT A PEEP OUTTA YOU, LADY!
MMMFF!
WHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE STRANGE CLIFFSIDE HOUSE...
AS YOU CAN SEE IN THIS SLIDE PRESENTATION, SIR, OUR PLANS HAVE NEARLY REACHED COMPLETION!
YOUR HONEYMOON HAVEN RESORT WILL BENEFIT, OF COURSE, FROM THE NIAGARA FALLS TOURIST TRADE...
ONLY IF WE CAN GET THE LAND WE WANT TO BUILD IT ON AWAY FROM THAT HOSPITAL, CARRUTHERS!

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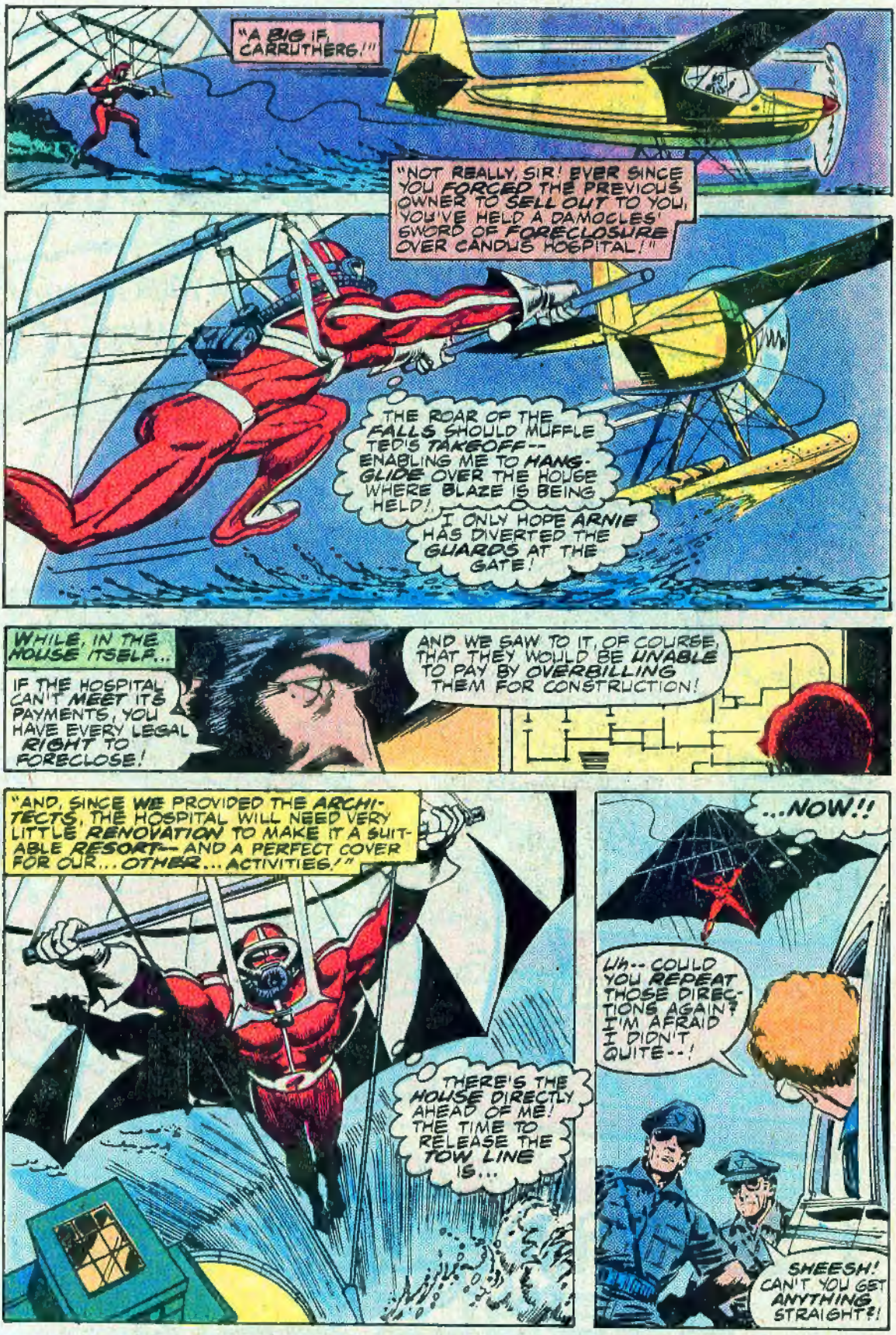
"A BIG IF, CARRUTHERS!"
"NOT REALLY, SIR! EVER SINCE YOU FORCED THE PREVIOUS OWNER TO SELL OUT TO YOU, YOU'VE HELD A DAMOCLES' SWORD OF FORECLOSURE OVER CANDUS HOSPITAL!"
THE ROAR OF THE FALLS SHOULD MUFFLE TED'S TAKEOFF--ENABLING ME TO HANG-GLIDE OVER THE HOUSE WHERE BLAZE IS BEING HELD!
I ONLY HOPE ARNIE HAS DIVERTED THE GUARDS AT THE GATE!
WHILE, IN THE HOUSE ITSELF...
IF THE HOSPITAL CAN'T MEET ITS PAYMENTS, YOU HAVE EVERY LEGAL RIGHT TO FORECLOSE!
AND WE SAW TO IT, OF COURSE, THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO PAY BY OVERBILLING THEM FOR CONSTRUCTION!
"AND, SINCE WE PROVIDED THE ARCHITECTS, THE HOSPITAL WILL NEED VERY LITTLE RENOVATION TO MAKE IT A SUITABLE RESORT--AND A PERFECT COVER FOR OUR... OTHER... ACTIVITIES!"
THERE'S THE HOUSE DIRECTLY AHEAD OF ME! THE TIME TO RELEASE THE TOW LINE IS...
...NOW!!
Uh-- COULD YOU REPEAT THOSE DIRECTIONS AGAIN? I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T QUITE--!
SHEESH! CAN'T YOU GET ANYTHING STRAIGHT?!

AND AS THE FLY HANGS DEGOVER HIS TARGET...
TED AND ARNIE HAVE DONE THEIR JOBS!
NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO MINE!
AND THAT SKYLIGHT BELOW--
--IS AS READY-MADE AN ENTRANCE AS I'VE EVER SEEN!
SKRASH!
FLY!!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG GETTING HERE, BLAZE--
--AND I'M SORRIER STILL THAT WITHOUT A GAS MASK, YOU'LL BE PUT TEMPORARILY TO SLEEP ALONG WITH THE ROVER BOYS HERE!
BUT I PROMISE YOU'LL AWAKE TO MUCH ACCOMODATIONS THAN THEY WILL!
PWOOF!
GAS!!

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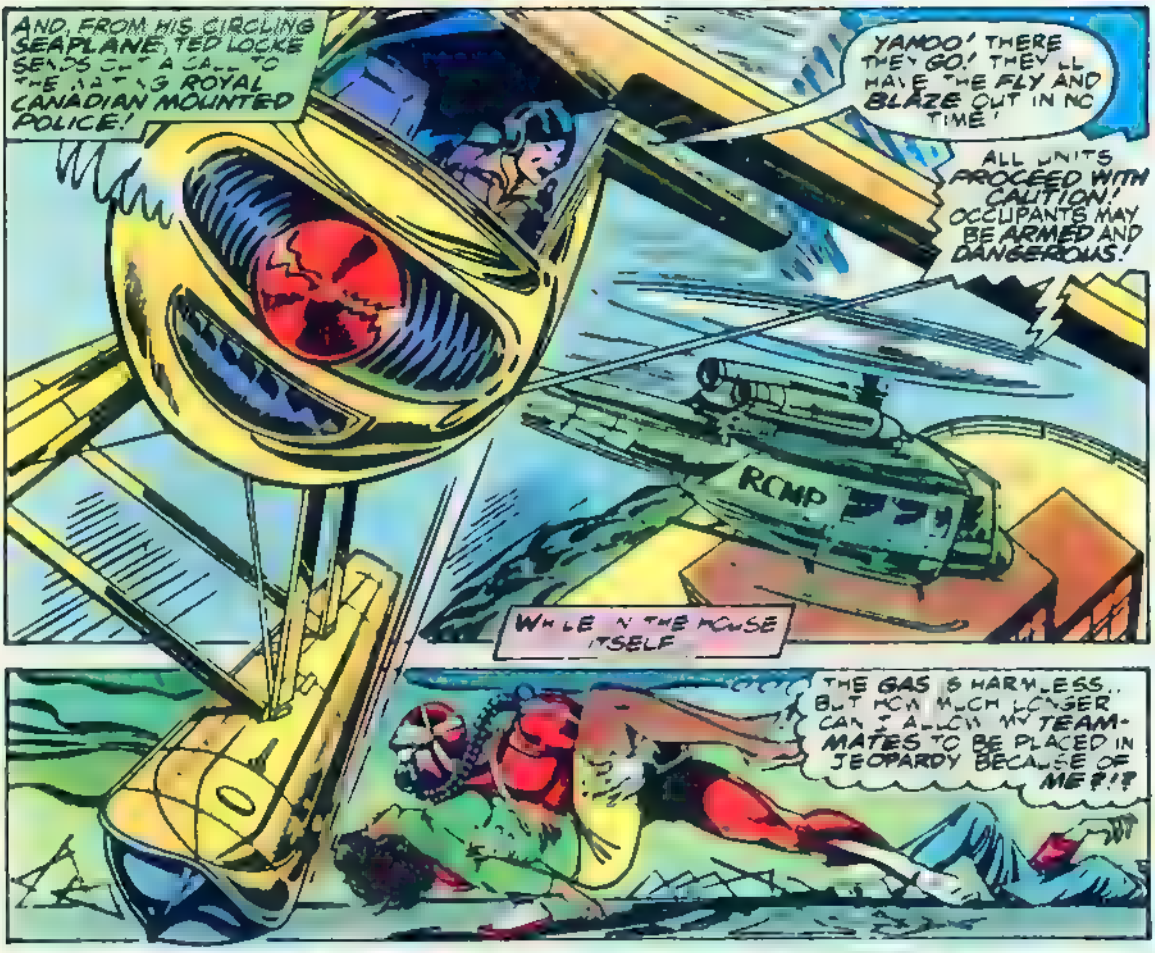
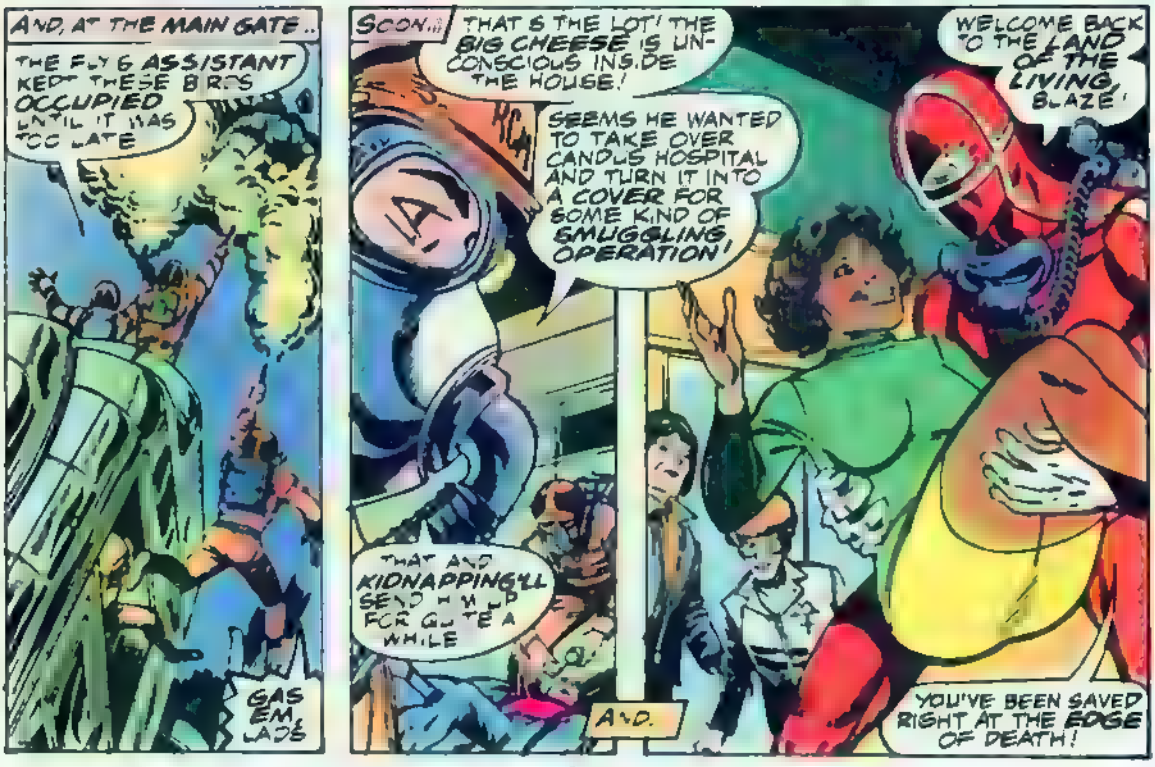
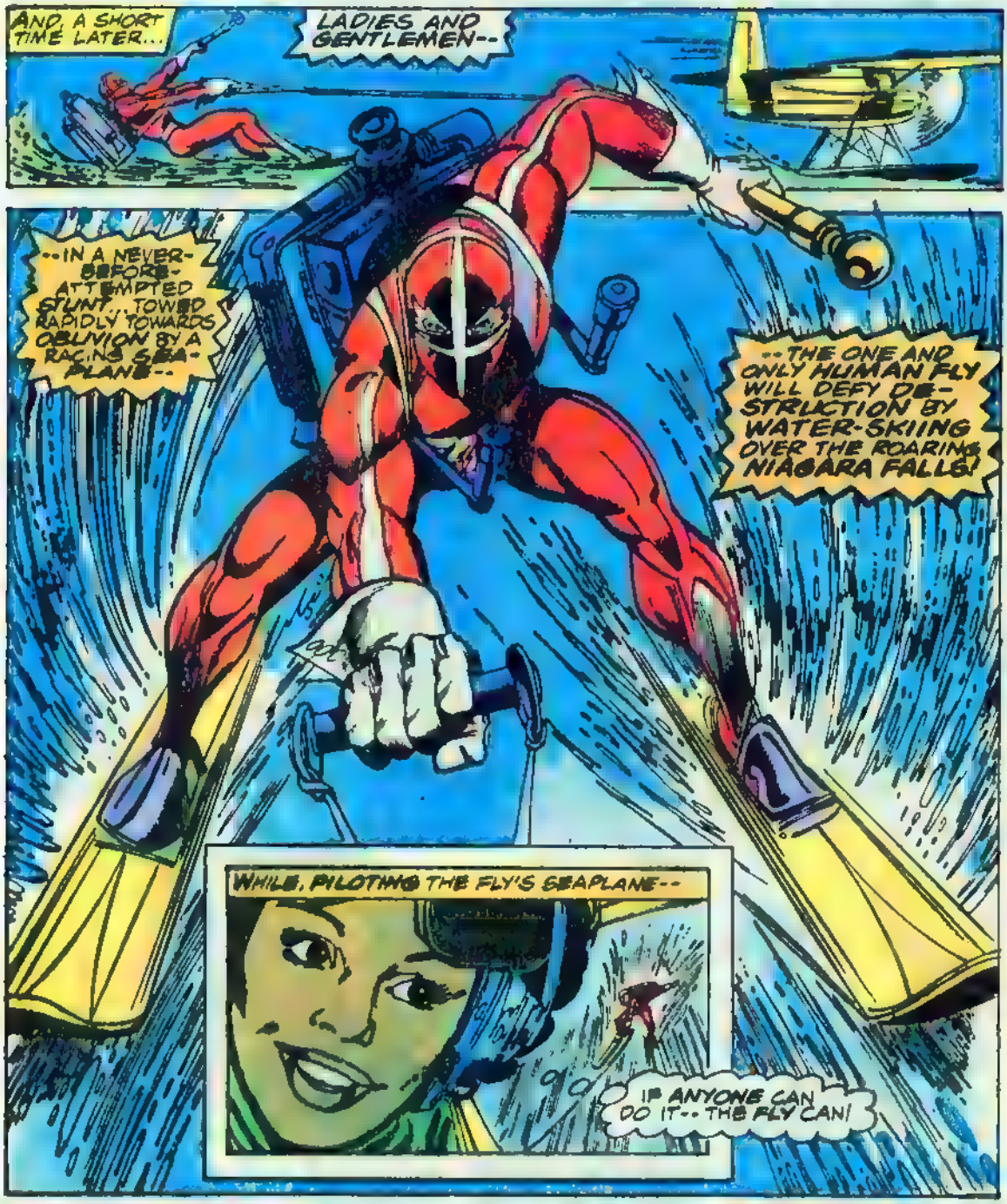
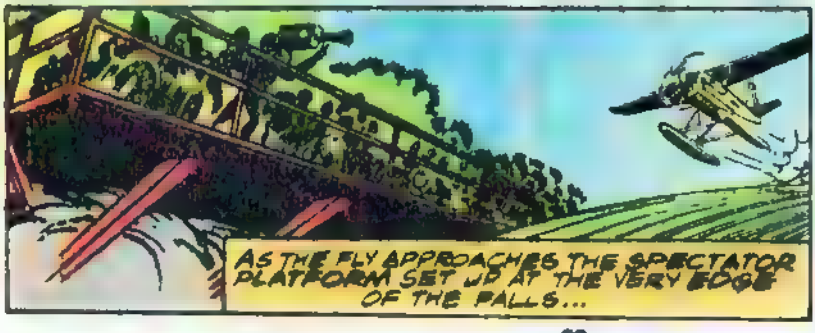
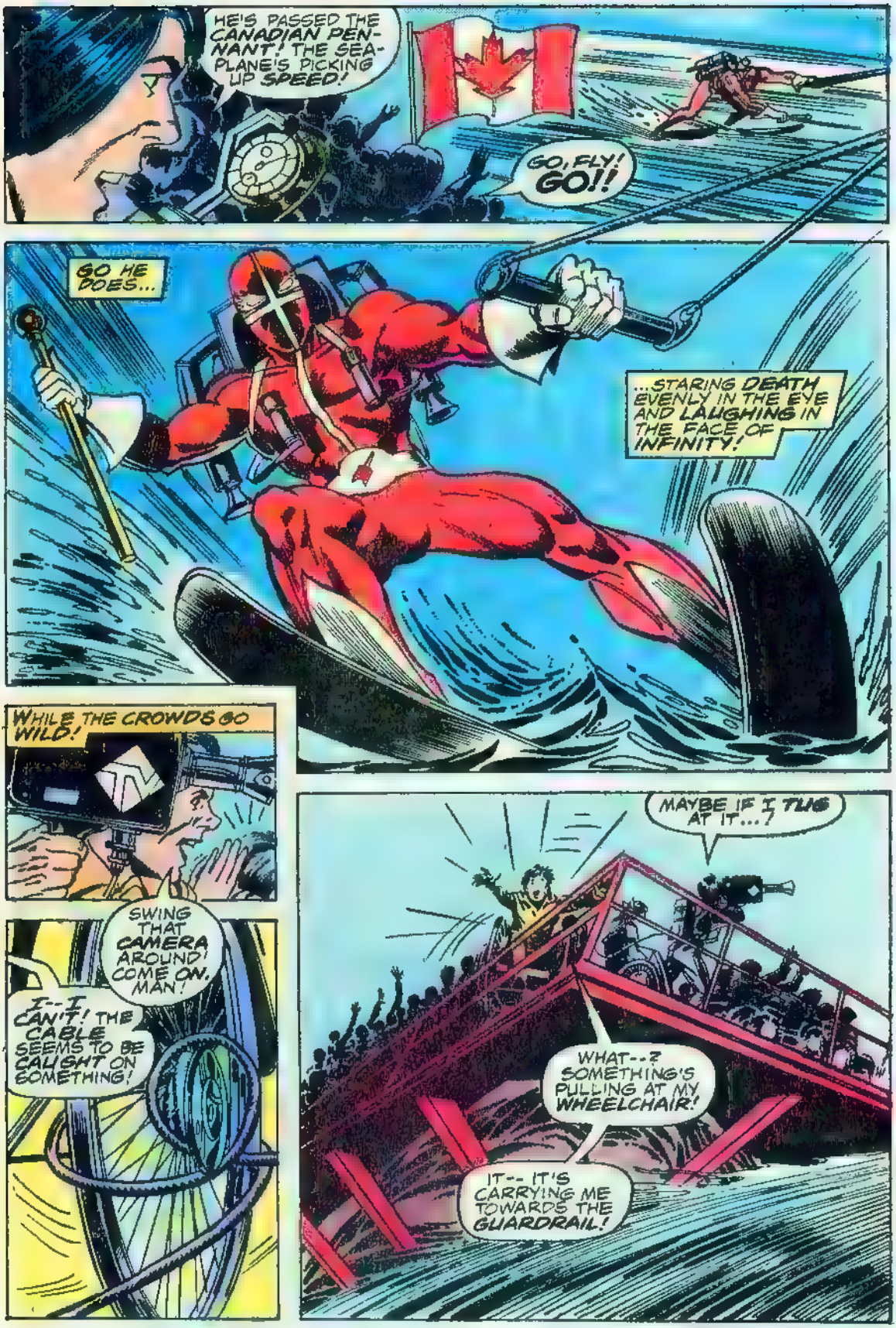

AND, FROM HIS CIRCLING SEAPLANE, TED LOCKE SENDS OUT A CALL TO THE WAITING ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE!
YAHOO! THERE THEY GO! THEY'LL HAVE THE FLY AND BLAZE OUT IN NO TIME!
ALL UNITS PROCEED WITH CAUTION! OCCUPANTS MAY BE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!
RCMP
WHILE IN THE HOUSE ITSELF
THE GAS IS HARMLESS.. BUT HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I ALLOW MY TEAMMATES TO BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY BECAUSE OF ME?!?


AND, AT THE MAIN GATE..
THE FLY & ASSISTANT KEPT THESE BROS OCCUPIED UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE
GAS 'EM, LADS
SOON...
THAT'S THE LOT! THE BIG CHEESE IS UNCONSCIOUS INSIDE THE HOUSE!
SEEMS HE WANTED TO TAKE OVER CANDUS HOSPITAL AND TURN IT INTO A COVER FOR SOME KIND OF SMUGGLING OPERATION!
THAT AND KIDNAPPING'LL SEND HIM UP FOR QUITE A WHILE
AND.
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, BLAZE!
YOU'VE BEEN SAVED RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF DEATH!


AND, A SHORT TIME LATER...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--
--IN A NEVER-BEFORE-ATTEMPTED STUNT...TOWED RAPIDLY TOWARDS OBLIVION BY A RACING SEA-PLANE--
--THE ONE AND ONLY HUMAN FLY WILL DEFY DESTRUCTION BY WATER-SKIING OVER THE ROARING NIAGARA FALLS!
WHILE, PILOTING THE FLY'S SEAPLANE--
IF ANYONE CAN DO IT--THE FLY CAN!


AS THE FLY APPROACHES THE SPECTATOR PLATFORM SET UP AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE FALLS...

GET THOSE CAMERAS READY! HERE HE COMES!


HE'S PASSED THE CANADIAN PENNANT! THE SEA-PLANE'S PICKING UP SPEED!
GO, FLY! GO!!
GO HE DOES...
...STARING DEATH EVENLY IN THE EYE AND LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF INFINITY!
WHILE THE CROWDS GO WILD!
SWING THAT CAMERA AROUND! COME ON, MAN!
I--I CAN'T! THE CABLE SEEMS TO BE CAUGHT ON SOMETHING!
MAYBE IF I TUG AT IT...?
WHAT--? SOMETHING'S PULLING AT MY WHEELCHAIR!
IT-- IT'S CARRYING ME TOWARDS THE GUARDRAIL!

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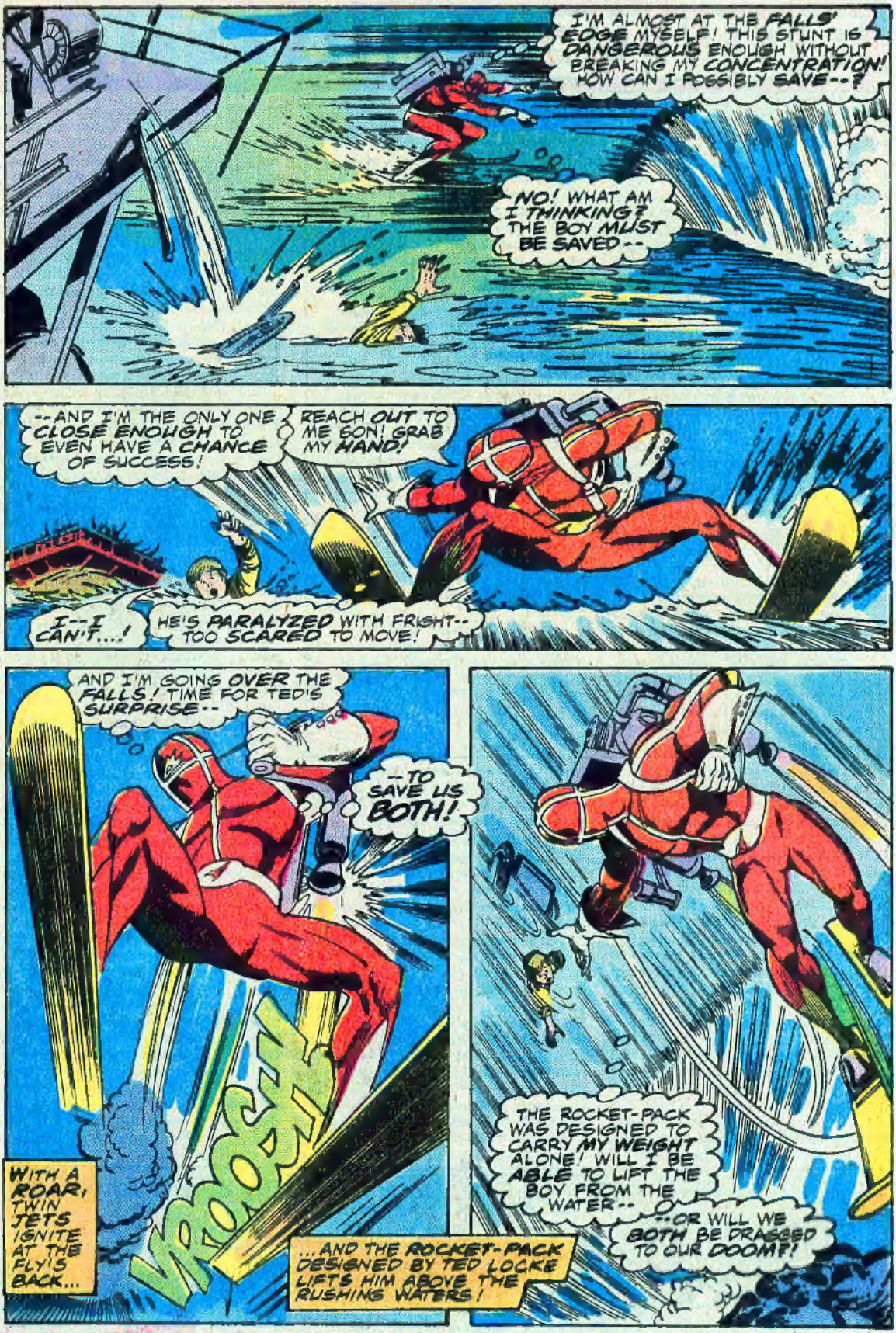
SOMEBODY--HELP ME!
BUT THE BOY'S CRIES ARE DROWNED-OUT IN THE ROAR FROM THE CROWD...
...THAT FOLLOWS THE HUMAN FLY'S RELEASE OF THE TOW LINE!
THERE HE GOES!
KRASH!
HELP! PLEASE, HELP ME!
OH MY, GOD! THAT BOY--
--HE'S FALLEN INTO THE RIVER!
"AND IN SECONDS HE'LL BE SWEPT OVER THE FALLS!!"
H-HELPPPPP...
SPLASH!


I'M ALMOST AT THE FALLS' EDGE MYSELF! THIS STUNT IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH WITHOUT BREAKING MY CONCENTRATION! HOW CAN I POSSIBLY SAVE--?
NO! WHAT AM I THINKING? THE BOY MUST BE SAVED--
--AND I'M THE ONLY ONE CLOSE ENOUGH TO EVEN HAVE A CHANCE OF SUCCESS!
REACH OUT TO ME SON! GRAB MY HAND!
I--I CAN'T....!
HE'S PARALYZED WITH FRIGHT--TOO SCARED TO MOVE!
AND I'M GOING OVER THE FALLS! TIME FOR TED'S SURPRISE--
--TO SAVE US BOTH!
WITH A ROAR, TWIN JETS IGNITE AT THE FLY'S BACK...
WHOOSH!
...AND THE ROCKET-PACK DESIGNED BY TED LOCKE LIFTS HIM ABOVE THE RUSHING WATERS!
THE ROCKET-PACK WAS DESIGNED TO CARRY MY WEIGHT ALONE! WILL I BE ABLE TO LIFT THE BOY FROM THE WATER--
--OR WILL WE BOTH BE DRAGGED TO OUR DOOM?!

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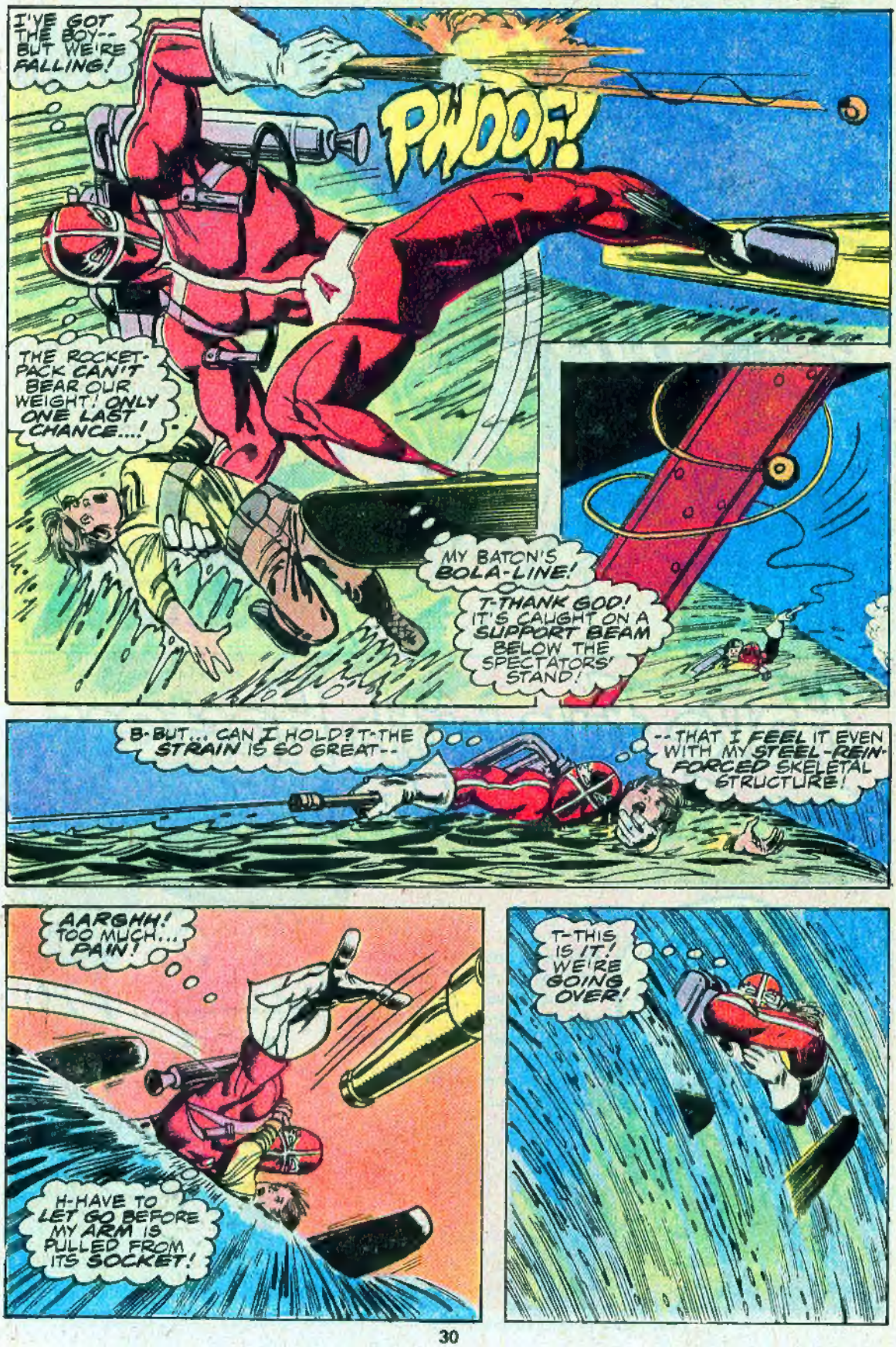
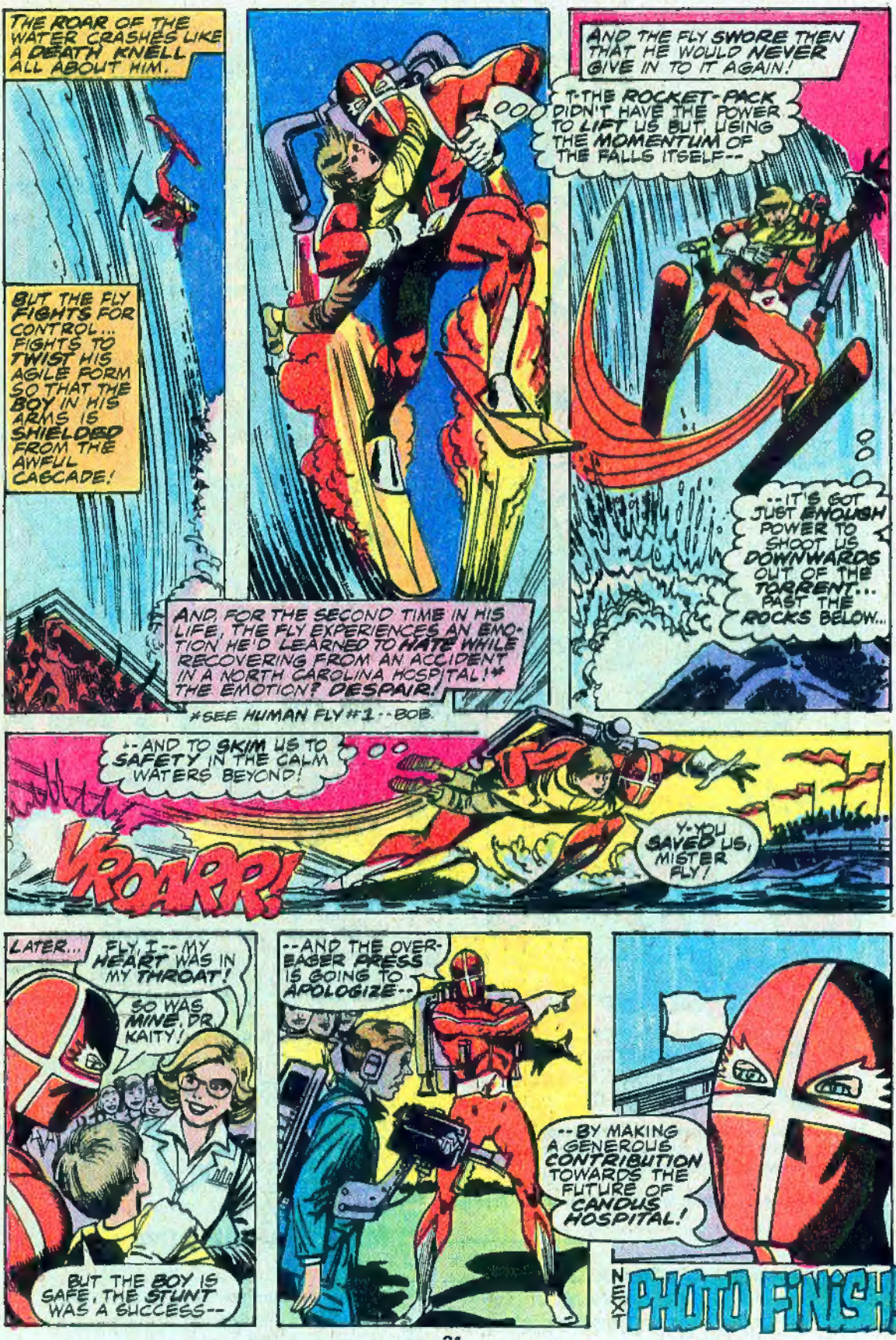

I'VE GOT THE BOY-- BUT WE'RE FALLING!
PWOOF!
THE ROCKET-PACK CAN'T BEAR OUR WEIGHT! ONLY ONE LAST CHANCE....!
MY BATON'S BOLA-LINE!
T-THANK GOD! IT'S CAUGHT ON A SUPPORT BEAM BELOW THE SPECTATORS' STAND!
B-BUT... CAN I HOLD? T-THE STRAIN IS SO GREAT--
--THAT I FEEL IT EVEN WITH MY STEEL-REIN-FORCED SKELETAL STRUCTURE!
AARGHH! TOO MUCH... PAIN!
H-HAVE TO LET GO BEFORE MY ARM IS PULLED FROM ITS SOCKET!
T-THIS IS IT! WE'RE GOING OVER!


THE ROAR OF THE WATER CRASHES LIKE A DEATH KNELL ALL ABOUT HIM.
BUT THE FLY FIGHTS FOR CONTROL... FIGHTS TO TWIST HIS AGILE FORM SO THAT THE BOY IN HIS ARMS IS SHIELDED FROM THE AWFUL CASCADE!
AND, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN HIS LIFE, THE FLY EXPERIENCES AN EMOTION HE'D LEARNED TO HATE WHILE RECOVERING FROM AN ACCIDENT IN A NORTH CAROLINA HOSPITAL!* THE EMOTION? DESPAIR!
*SEE HUMAN FLY #1 -- BOB.
T-THE ROCKET-PACK DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO LIFT US BUT, USING THE MOMENTUM OF THE FALLS ITSELF--
AND THE FLY SWORE THEN THAT HE WOULD NEVER GIVE IN TO IT AGAIN!
--IT'S GOT JUST ENOUGH POWER TO SHOOT US DOWNWARDS OUT OF THE TORRENT... PAST THE ROCKS BELOW...
--AND TO SKIM US TO SAFETY IN THE CALM WATERS BEYOND!
VROARR!
Y-YOU SAVED US, MISTER FLY!
LATER...
FLY, I -- MY HEART WAS IN MY THROAT!
SO WAS MINE, DR. KAITY!
BUT THE BOY IS SAFE, THE STUNT WAS A SUCCESS--
--AND THE OVER-EAGER PRESS IS GOING TO APOLOGIZE--
--BY MAKING A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF CANDUS HOSPITAL!
NEXT PHOTO FINISH!